

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, April 29, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Lyn Bailey on the Yea Newsagency



Page 5

Poisonous mushroom warning



Page 8

Anzac Day in Flowerdale



Page 10

Weekend sport



Pages 18-20

Anzac Day commemorated



The march to the Yea Cenotaph on Anzac Day. More images on pages 6 and 17. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos

Fire Inquiry hears from our fire-impacted region

THE Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee's *Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires across Victoria* held a hearing at the Alexandra Shire Hall on Friday, April 24. The committee members had also heard directly from some of the communities impacted by the Longwood fire on the preceding days.

The session started with council representatives from the fire-impacted region, including Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher, CEO Livia Bonazzi, and Director of Community and Development Andrew Paxton.

The panel also heard from community hub representatives from Fawcett, Tablelands and Highlands, followed by CFA representatives, then former incident controller Andrew Miller, Peter Weeks from UGFM, and Fiona Lindsay who lost her property in the Longwood Fire.

After lunch, there was an open mic session, where members of the community could make three-minute presentations to the panel.

Throughout the session, the panel members were made aware of the trauma and challenges

facing the fire-impacted communities. There was also the overwhelming impression that residents, councils and community hubs felt that they had not been adequately supported by the state government during the recovery stages, noting how different the response has been compared to previous bushfire events in Victoria.

As Mayor Damien Gallagher said in his presentation, "In February, the Victorian Government announced \$6.9 million in mental health support for bushfire impacted communities. Try to contemplate my frustration after conveying the story of Murrindindi Shire, the 4000 square kilometres and most impacted municipality, has received \$0 dollars of that funding. Contemplate my frustration at hearing no response to raising this concern and seeing Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital and community and philanthropic funded individuals like Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer, fill the mental wellbeing gap without recovery support; a gap left by a failure of policy. Murrindindi is on the

frontline of the disaster, and back of the queue for funding."

He also spoke about the recovery challenges following the 2022 flood event, and the power and communication difficulties in the shire. He spoke of farmers suffering from floods, droughts, fire and now the fuel and fertiliser challenges. Livia pointed out that half of the shire's farmers are missing out on all support from the state government.

Damien noted that only 8.3 per cent of the announced funding for local governments to date is going to Murrindindi Shire, despite our shire comprising 48 per cent of the area burnt in the January fires.

CEO Livia Bonazzi stated, "Resilience is not a funding model. When recovery funding is standardised against unequal impact, the burden shifts onto communities, onto volunteers, and onto small rural councils with limited capacity to absorb it."

She said, "A system that is not proportionate in design becomes re-traumatising in delivery. We entered this fire season already carrying

the impact of floods, storms and prolonged disruption. Infrastructure was already compromised. Recovery frameworks assume events occur in isolation. Communities experience them as cumulative, layered and unfinished. Local government sits at the centre of this. We are the recovery coordinating authority. We are the delivery layer. We manage infrastructure. We enable rebuilding. We support community wellbeing and local economies. Half our workforce was directly impacted by this disaster. They are living the recovery while delivering it. At the same time, volunteers and community-led hubs have been essential. But community is not a substitute for a system that is properly resourced."

She finished by saying, "We will continue to stand with our community. The question is whether the system and government will stand with us."

The panel also heard numerous times about people's concerns around roadside vegetation, wire-rope barriers, communications challenges, leave early or stay and fight, and the prioritisation decisions during the fire fight.



Letters to the Editor

Unviable, unachievable and not value for money

UPPER Goulburn landholders met with Federal Water Minister Watt, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) Simon Banks and Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Chief Executive River Management Jacqui Hickey last week. It seems none of them are widely read on the cold hard facts why any relaxed constraints flows from the upper Goulburn and mid Murray River simply cannot have any positive effect on increasing flows in the Lower Murray, unless man-made major floods such as those of 2016 and 2022 are created.

The Minister was totally clueless of the fact that the *Hydrological Outcomes* document that investigated the feasibility of constraints in the Goulburn and Murray stated, "The beneficial environmental impacts of relaxing constraints in the mid-Murray and Goulburn tend to decrease with increasing distance downstream of the Barmah Choke. Modelling suggests relaxing constraints will result in no change in the frequency of environmentally desirable higher flow rates in the Murray River at the South Australian border under all relaxed constraints scenarios tested in this stage of the Victorian Constraints Management Project."

In fact none of the bureaucrats had read the above document which repeatedly states relaxed constraints flows, as modelled by the

MDBA, DEECA and University of Melbourne, from the Upper Goulburn and mid Murray have no significant impact past Torrumbarry or at the South Australian border.

The Minister also told us that he was unaware that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has repeatedly stated that they do not need or want any more water for the Goulburn. They have 65OGL and struggle to use all that.

Carl Walters, Chief Executive GBCMA has continually said, "We can't have the Goulburn River treated as a sacrificial lamb to downstream needs. It has essentially destroyed the characteristics of the lower Goulburn with bank slumping, erosion and declining native fish populations."

The MDBA and CEWH advise the Minister on environmental buybacks, so in my book, these bureaucrats are culpable of either misinforming the Federal Minister or the Minister himself is slow-witted and uncomprehending.

Regardless, Minister Watt told us face to face and in no uncertain terms he intended to continue buying back the 450 GL. Despite the fact that the purpose of the 450GL was to be delivered to the Lower Murray and South Australia to achieve 'enhanced environmental outcomes' and has now been proven to be unachievable, the Minister intends to keep spending billions of taxpayer's dollars.

As environmental water entitlements make up 44 per cent of entitlements in the Goulburn Valley consumptive pool, it is obvious this excess water which will have to be stored in the upstream storages, will in wetter years with more unpredictable rain events, cause major flooding of landowners on the riverine floodplains. And in drought years will exacerbate food and fodder shortages.

Water policies as devised by the Basin Plan have created an overabundance of environmental water which now controls our national food and fodder security.

The MDBA, CEWH and Minister Watt are all answerable to the public. They are all guilty of spending billions of taxpayer's dollars on a project that has proven to be unviable and unachievable and certainly not value for money as all procurement programs must be by law.

Jan Beer, Yea, representing Upper Goulburn River Catchment Association

The Green Dream

AS I class myself as one of the silent majority, ie. not one for marching up and down streets and protesting about anything that does not fit my outlook on this once wonderful country, I've just about had enough of the incompetence of current governments at both state and federal level that are driving this country in a downward spiral to I don't know where.

What has steamed me up is a program I watched last Sunday, April 12. To those who agree or disagree with the current move toward renewable energy I implore you to watch this program which is called *Spotlight: The Green Dream*, available on 7+ if you have a smart TV. This will open your eyes up regardless of your beliefs. The program shows some horrifying situations that should affect us all in this current age, proving that the push toward renewables is an issue that must be re-addressed, good luck with that. If anyone wishes to reply to this letter, please don't until you have watched this program in its entirety.

Ken Coller, Eildon

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900
Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400
In an emergency dial 000

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

PUBLISHERS
Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post Approved - PP 10000292
Independently owned and operated with no association with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

for all your
printing needs

Alexandra Newspapers
43 Grant Street
Alexandra 3714

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY
Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086
Sun Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

MONTHLY
1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 0409 819 040

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00AM Mon	1.67	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00AM Mon	0.40	falling	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00AM Mon	0.49	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarek	10.32AM Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.27AM Mon	0.40	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	10.00AM Mon	0.20	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00AM Mon	0.39	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	3.61	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00AM Mon	0.31	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00AM Mon	1.21	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00AM Mon	0.28	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.30AM Mon	1.52	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

***ISSUED AT 10:54 AM AEDT MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on Facebook

Standard
The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather
April 29 - May 5, 2026
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	9	24	Wednesday	9	24
Thursday	10	23	Thursday	10	23
Friday	12	24	Friday	12	25
Saturday	14	23	Saturday	15	23
Sunday	11	20	Sunday	11	21
Monday	8	16	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	7	15	Tuesday	7	16

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	0.1mm
Buxton	N/A mm
Eildon (AWS)	0mm
Flowerdale	0.2mm
Jamieson	0mm
Kinglake	0mm
Lake Eildon	0mm
Mansfield	0mm
Taggerty	0.2mm
Yarek	0mm
Yea	0mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	269.72m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	41.1%
Metres below full supply	19.18m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	70%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
Thumbs up/down	Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support



People have an opportunity to wander around Snobs Creek Hatchery and talk to staff at the annual open day. -BD

Snobs Creek Hatchery annual open day to show off new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre

THE Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery near Eildon will be open to fish fanatics of all ages from 9am to 2pm at its annual open day on Sunday, May 3.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said the annual free event will have an added attraction this year following the opening of the new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre which will provide a significant boost to the iconic 'Maccas' and trout cod.

"The open day is packed with free family activities including self-guided tours and the chance to ask questions of expert hatchery staff about how fish are bred in captivity and Victorian Fisheries Authority's nation leading fish stocking program," Mr Dowling said.

Snobs Creek opened in 1948 and now produces everything from the iconic Murray cod to threatened trout cod and Macquarie perch, as well as brown and rainbow trout and Chinook salmon.

Work by the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery to help recover at least 10 threatened species is another highlight of the open day.

VFA staff and the team from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute will be on hand to explain the work carried out at this state-of-the-art facility.

Robbie Alexander will be there sharing fishing tips and stories, inspiring the next generation to go

fishing more often and scientist Dr Corey Green will be dissecting trout and discussing their fascinating anatomy.

VRFish will be running a fun lure painting activity while sharing advocacy updates in the recreational fishing space.

The Fisheries Education team will keep the kids entertained with a range of activities. There will also be a stocking truck display, casting clinics, aquaculture hub, live music, coffee van and sausage sizzle.

The Snob's Creek Fish Hatchery is at 455 Goulburn Valley Highway, Eildon.

For more information on what the Snobs Creek Open day has in store, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/snobsopenday

Garden Club Mother's Day Bouquet Stall

YEA Garden Club members have been busy in their gardens lately, nurturing blooms to create beautiful bouquets for their first Mother's Day Bouquet Stall. Fresh, locally grown flowers, no air miles, no harmful sprays and a longer vase life.

The stall will be held outside Yenckens Hardware at 26 High Street, Yea, from 9am until sold out. Bouquets are \$25 each, and there will be something special for children too.

Funds raised at the stall will be allocated to the restoration of the Yea fountain, which reaches its centenary milestone in 2028.



Victorian Fisheries Authority

SUNDAY 3 MAY
9am - 2pm

FREE EVENT

SNObs CREEK OPEN DAY

Join us for a fun, free open day at our Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery!
455 Goulburn Valley Highway, Eildon

- ✓ Tour the hatchery, including the new Conservation Hatchery to bring back threatened freshwater species and Macquarie perch Recovery Centre
- ✓ Aquaculture Hub with free samples
- ✓ Meet fishing expert Robbie Alexander
- ✓ Fun kids activities - plaster arts, face painting, games and so much more!
- ✓ Take a selfie with our big fish sculpture
- ✓ Local artists performing live music
- ✓ Coffee van and sausage sizzle onsite

SCAN ME!

VICTORIA

Mother's Day Bouquet Sale!

The Yea Garden Club proudly announces its inaugural Mother's Day Bouquet Sale.

All lovingly grown and selected from our members gardens.

DATE:
9th May from 9am until sold out.

LOCATION:
26 High Street Yea, outside Yenckens.

\$25 a bunch

Proceeds to go to fountain restoration appeal.

CASH ONLY



CFA Appreciation Dinner raises \$46,753.48

THE Murrindindi CFA Appreciation Dinner, held on Saturday, March 28 in Alexandra has announced that the event raised a remarkable \$46,753.48. The organisers would like to send a huge thank you to all of the people of Murrindindi Shire.

Ticket sales raised \$6447, the live and silent auctions raised \$31,470, the raffle raised \$6035, the Liquor Donation package totalled \$1490, and there was \$960 in direct donations, \$251.48 in payment donations, and the Buy-It-Now total was \$100.

As a result of the effort, each of the shire's 24 brigades received a deposit of \$1948.06.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who came to support the event on the night and the many generous businesses which donated.

Out & About

THE items in *Out and About* are sourced from our current advertising. *Out and About* is not a free community listing diary. Not all items can be included and are placed at the discretion of Alexandra Newspapers.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

An open community meeting will take place from 5pm at the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, hosted by Murrindindi Shire Council. This is an opportunity to speak to council about topics or issues that affect you and your community. Prior registration is not required.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Free health checks for the farming community at Yea Saleyards.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Free heart health checks at Murrindindi Foodshare 9am-noon - access via Bayley Street carpark.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Confetti and Chaos at Trawool Estate. This fabulous five star experience has fun and mayhem bursting from the seams of a wedding dress, with entirely original comedy that pulls out all the stops; including quick

fire character changes and quick fire laughs. From arrival through to seating, eating, and dancing, audiences will become part of a classic wedding reception gone wildly wrong. The most hilarious wedding reception ever. A perfect gift for your mum for Mother's Day. Book now 5792 1444 or trawoolstate.com.au/whatson/confettiandchaos

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Yea Garden Club announces it's inaugural Mother's Day bouquet sale outside Yenckens Yea from 9am until sold out.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Enjoy Mother's Day in Wild Water restaurant at Trawool

Estate. Dine from the usual all day menu, or enjoy the specials available just for this special day. Booking essential on 5792 1444 or trawoolstate.com.au/booktable

TUESDAY, MAY 12

Friends of the Library Alexandra AGM. 6pm at the Alexandra Library. New members welcome. Nomination forms available by emailing the secretary proctor@virtual.net.au

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Free heart health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy 10am-noon.



Bushfire Relief Concert raises \$148,121 for fire-affected communities

AFTER weeks of behind-the-scenes work to finalise outcomes, organisers of the *Rise From the Ashes* Bushfire Relief Concert have officially confirmed that \$148,121 has been raised to support communities impacted by the January 2026 bushfires.

The event brought together an overwhelming level of community support, with funds directed toward the smaller, and in many cases harder-hit, communities of Yarck, Fawcett, Merton, Ruffy and Terip Terip.

Event organisers Jason Smith (Frankston Bombers Football Netball Club President) and Terip and Yarck locals Chris and Chloe Sharman said it was a privilege to work alongside key contributors to bring the initiative to life.

"It has been an absolute pleasure working together to deliver an event that not only brought people together but delivered meaningful support to those who need it most," they said.

To ensure the funds are distributed fairly and effectively, a meeting was recently held

with the five CFA Captains representing each township. From this, an Advisory Committee has been established, with clear criteria to guide the allocation of funds across the affected communities.

The final stage of the fundraising effort was marked Sunday, April 19, with the official cheque presented to the Advisory Committee at the Yarck Hotel.

Organisers extended their sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the event's success.

"We would like to thank every business and individual who supported this event, whether through raffle prizes, auction items, food, beverages or direct donations.

"A special thank you must also go to the Frankston Bombers FNC and the wider football and netball community of the Mornington Peninsula, whose generosity and volunteer support played a significant role in making the day such a success.

"This result simply would not have been possible without the support of so many."

POLICE REPORT

ON Saturday, April 11 between 7pm and 8.50pm, unknown offenders broke into a Nissan Patrol which was parked on High Street in Yea. The offenders made attempts to start the vehicle but were unsuccessful. The offenders stole a black Dometic branded fridge, a wallet and various keys from the vehicle. If you have any information, please contact Senior Constable Moffatt at Yea Police on 5797 2630.

BENALLA Crime Investigation detectives are seeking assistance from the public following a burglary at a Merton service station on April 15. A male wearing a red bucket hat, all black clothing, gloves, and white shoes, gained entry to the Maroondah Highway premises about 2.50am. He stole cash, cigarettes and a mobile phone. The offender fled in a newer model silver Toyota Rav 4 (possibly a XSE variant) with black rims and roof. Investigators believe a second person was in the vehicle, in the front passenger seat. This follows on from a similar incident in Eildon about 2.30am on Saturday, March 14. An offender gained entry to a service station on Centre Avenue, stealing a safe containing cash. Investigators have released images of a person wearing a grey 'NXP' hoodie, black pants and white sneakers, who they believe may be able to assist the investigation. Police have also released an image of a white dual cab Toyota utility that was in the vicinity at the time of the Eildon incident. Anyone who can help identify an offender or one of the vehicles mentioned is urged to contact Crimestoppers.



Police are keen to speak to the man in this image regarding the Merton incident. -S

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion. Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala 0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

Sunday Service time 11am Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday, 10am to 11am - all welcome Father Mario Hendricks Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew 0459 402 547 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm Immaculate Conception Parish Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest Ph 9717 6482 St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea Sunday Service 10.30am Colin Whiteway Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road, Kinglake West. 9716 2330

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE **Standard** The Yea Chronicle

facebook.com/AlexandraNewspapers

An important warning

AN email arrived in our inbox recently from a prominent local person, known to our organisation. The email said, "Do you have time to chat over email?"

Our response was in the affirmative, with an offer to chat over the phone if needed.

They replied, "Thanks for the response, I'm reaching out to ask for a favor. I need to get an Apple gift card for my niece, who is diagnosed with stage 4 mesothelioma cancer. It's her birthday but I can't do this now because I'm currently out of town. I tried purchasing it online, but unfortunately, I got no luck on that. I was wondering if you could purchase it at any store around you, supermarket or ordering it online through Apple, prezzee or eBay and have it sent directly to her email. I'll refund you, just let me know if you're able to assist."

This rang alarm bells and led to checking the email address it had been sent from. It was similar to the address of the person known to us, but not the same. Someone in the office had also seen the person in town just an hour earlier.

The email was sent from a scammer. We decided to mess with them a little bit.

We enquired about the address they would like the gift card sent to, and this was willingly supplied by the scammer.

"Thank you so much. I want you to get \$200 Apple gift card, you can order the gift cards to her email address [***] and forward the order confirmation to me once done. The delivery date should be 'now' so it will be delivered five mins after been ordered. Message I want is 'Happy Birthday you deserve the best.'"

We replied, "Done," and followed up half an hour later with a "Whoops, I think I sent it to the wrong email address."

They responded, "Thank you so much. She has not received any Apple gift card, so you will need to reorder another one for her. Don't worry I will refund you all. Here is her email address [***]."

We enquired about whether the money would be refunded in cash tomorrow, and of course they said it would be, along with a further request to "forward the confirmation once it's done."

We asked whether the gift card should be in Euros or American dollars.

The scammer replied, "Send it in Euros she has a way of using it."

We offered to call and confirm the details. They said, "No, I'm currently busy at the moment please go ahead and place the order."

We said, "I just want to confirm the message to include. I'll call you in five mins. Just a really quick call."

The reply was, "I'm currently using my computer at the moment so I can't receive call. Here is the message you will include: happy birthday you deserve the best."

Of course, we didn't send the money.

These scammers impersonate people, even our local people, and prey on kindness.

If you receive a similar email, please don't be fooled. Check the email address against the email address you have for the person you know, and give them a call if you're not sure.

Always be extremely wary of anyone asking for a gift card to be emailed.

Living the dream: Lyn Bailey on finishing Yea Newsagency operations

FOR a quarter of a century, Lyn Bailey has operated the Yea Newsagency with vigour, six days a week. Her grandchildren have all worked there, meeting the locals and garnering experience, and the business has been a huge part of her life.

Now Lyn is finished running the newsagents, her last day of operation being May 2, and ready to reflect on the journey it has been.

"I've enjoyed it, I've had a ball," Lyn said on running the newsagents.

"But it will be nice to finally have some privacy. My partner and I originally bought it, 25 years ago. Through time we've separated, and I've had it on my own and it's been good. Challenging at times, but good."

Lyn is originally from Shepparton but moved to Melbourne for a couple of years with her partner, disliked it, and came to Yea, where they brought the newsagents.

"Murray and I moved to Montrose for two years and didn't like it. Nobody speaks and so we came

here and bought this. Bought it off John and Jeannie Handsaker, who'd had it I think for 33 years," Lyn said.

"I believe I was the upstart from Melbourne who wouldn't last, which I found amusing because I'm actually from Shepparton."

The support of locals was one of the biggest highlights of operating the Yea Newsagency, and though Lyn made it clear there were far too many important people to name, she mentioned a few.

"I did want to say John and Jeannie, I did rent the building from

them for a few years and then it was bought by Malcolm and Vicki White. And the first flood I had in here, Vicki White came in with a broom and helped me sweep the place out. She was a pretty special person," Lyn said.

"I truly have been looked after by the people here. Justin Branch, my paper boy, has been amazing, absolutely amazing. Alan and Glenys Christie, they've just been brilliant customers. Glenys is an amazing lady who makes an amazing ginger fluff cake. All the people I'd like to thank for their business, they've really looked after me. I truly, from the bottom of my heart, appreciate it.

"I've learnt so much from the town. The first lot of fires, my goodness, the way this town rallies. Margaret Mahon, Marg Auldis, Deb Baines, they were cooking meals around the back. It is an incredible community, and that blew my mind. I'd never seen anything like it. And the way this town rallies is just amazing. They're special people around here, and there's too many to name."

After talking about the amazing community of Yea, and how the townsfolk rally, Lyn took a moment to stress the importance of local businesses.

"I'd like people to know how important it is for them to support local businesses. Even though I'm not going to be here, we really need to support our local businesses, otherwise we're not going to have them. And they do an amazing job of helping people. I don't think people appreciate them enough," she said.

Lyn has plans for the future, revolving around some much-needed time off to begin with.

"I'm going to take a few months off. I want to spend some time in Shepparton with my mum, take a holiday and then I'll look for some work. I want to find out who I am again. Twenty-five years is a long time," Lyn said.

Her family being involved in the business was a proud talking point.

"All my grandkids have worked in here. Cooper especially has come down on the holidays. He knows all the locals. This business has been a huge part of my life and my families," Lyn said.

"My daughter's going to come down on the last day and work with me. All the kids have been in here. That's how the grandkids learnt their maths, ripping Nana off.

"Stephanie, Murray and I's youngest daughter, was a baby when we first came here. She was in a little playpen in the front of the shop. Because my dream was to have her while I was working. But we had to put her in daycare because the elders kept waking her up. She couldn't sleep. So, Stephanie was a bubby in here."

In closing, Lyn thanked the community for its support, and her staff for their help.

"Thank you for the support of the community through the years and through my divorce and everything like that, they've been incredible. And I'd like to thank all the staff that have worked here through the years," she said.

"I've just been here and I've done my job and I've tried to make everyone laugh."



Lyn Bailey, who is finishing 25 years of operating the Yea Newsagency. -BD

New funding opportunity for energy resilience projects

APPLICATIONS are now open for the final round of AusNet's Energy Resilience Grants. There are two categories: Energy Resilience Grants, and Energy Education and Literacy Grants.

These grants provide funding for projects that strengthen local energy resilience and help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from prolonged outages, emergencies and severe weather events.

With communities across the Murrindindi Shire continuing to recover from the January bushfires, this funding can support essential improvements that build long term resilience.

Applications are open to community and not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises, and eligible small businesses or sole traders providing an essential service or operating as a resilience hub.

You can read the grant guidelines at Energy Resilience Community Fund (ERCF) and submit an application through the ERCF grants portal.

For questions about eligibility or the application process, you can also contact AusNet's ERCF Manager, Kim Sullivan, on 0499 781 580 or at ERCF@ausnetservices.com.au

The Yea Chronicle

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Lyn at Yea Newsagency for the many years of dedication to her business.

Good luck Lyn with your future endeavours.

From May 6, copies of the *Yea Chronicle* will be available from Yea FoodWorks

Anzac Day in Yea



Rotary provided a free barbecue after the Anzac Day service at Railway Park. They served just over 200 sausages. The crowd was much bigger than that but not everyone went for the sausages. They also had a donation box and close to \$150 was donated that the Rotary Club of Yea will pass on to the RSL. -S



Michelle Mussett and Rod Fox on the bagpipes. -S



A show of support at the Yea Anzac Day service. -S



Yea High School students with the wreaths. -S



Member for Indi Helen Haines speaking to the crowd. -S



Emcee Jennifer Keast welcoming people to the event. -S



Elaine White placing the Legacy wreath. -S



Part of the crowd in Yea on Anzac Day. -S

THE PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE BIT

Head for the hills and discover Victoria's regional events. Try your hands (and feet) at various things you've never done before. You could find yourself cider quaffing, tulip sniffing, star gazing, maybe even grape stomping.

VICTORIA EVERY BIT DIFFERENT

VISITVICTORIA.COM

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to Tahlia, Charlie and Isla for their commitment to living our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Yellow staining mushrooms. -Tom May, Royal Botanic Gardens

Warning as poisonous mushrooms starting to appear in cool weather

VICTORIANS are being reminded to stay vigilant, with poisonous mushrooms beginning to appear during autumn as conditions become cooler and wetter.

Deputy Chief Health Officer Dr Evelyn Wong is warning people not to pick or eat wild mushrooms growing in home gardens or publicly accessible areas, as they can be poisonous and unsafe to consume.

"Adults and children are advised not to handle wild mushrooms with bare hands or eat them, and pets should be kept away from areas where mushrooms are growing. Eating some wild mushroom can make you very sick or even kill you," Dr Wong said.

There is no home test available to distinguish safe and edible mushrooms from poisonous mushrooms and unless you are an expert,

do not pick and consume wild mushrooms in Victoria, including in your home garden.

Poisonous mushrooms, including death cap mushrooms and yellow-staining mushrooms, are more common in Victoria through the autumn and winter months, particularly after rain.

It is important to safely remove any wild mushrooms growing at home to reduce the risk to young children and pets.

Wild mushrooms growing in home gardens should be removed by wearing gloves, carefully placing them in a bag and disposing of them in a closed general waste (landfill) rubbish bin. Hands should be washed thoroughly afterwards.

Victorians are strongly advised to only eat mushrooms purchased from supermarkets, greengrocers or other reputable retailers.



Death cap mushrooms. -Tom May, Royal Botanic Gardens

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre received more than 400 calls relating to mushroom exposures in 2025, with nearly half of these calls involving exploratory exposures in children under the age of five.

Poisoning can happen to anyone consuming wild mushrooms. If you or anyone in your care may have eaten a wild mushroom, do not wait for symptoms to develop. Please call the Victorian Poisons Information Centre immediately on 131126 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) for appropriate advice.

"Common symptoms of mushroom poisoning can include stomach pains, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea. Ingesting death cap

mushrooms can lead to irreversible organ failure and ultimately result in death."

If you or anyone in your care feels unwell after eating wild mushrooms, including with severe gastrointestinal symptoms, call 000 immediately for an ambulance. Do not call the Poisons Information Centre in an emergency.

If your pet has ingested a wild mushroom, contact the Animal Poisons Helpline on 1300 869 738 for advice.

More information about mushroom poisoning is available at the Better Health Channel at [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mushroom-poisoning](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mushroom-poisoning)

Financial support available to help protect and restore waterways after Longwood fire

LANDHOLDERS impacted by the January 2026 Longwood bushfire can now access targeted financial assistance to help protect and rehabilitate damaged waterways and wetlands.

Through the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) January 2026 Fire Recovery Program, eligible landholders can receive subsidies to repair or replace riparian (streamside) fencing and incentives to protect new riparian and wetland sites.

The Longwood Fire caused widespread damage to riparian corridors, leaving streambanks exposed, fencing destroyed and conditions ideal for weed invasion

due to increased sunlight and bare ground.

Goulburn Broken CMA River Health Projects Manager Linc Wellington said early action is essential to support natural recovery.

"Riparian zones are some of the most vulnerable parts of the landscape after fire," Mr Wellington said.

"Without fencing, stock can easily access burnt streambanks, slowing regeneration and increasing erosion. At the same time, weeds such as blackberry and others can quickly establish if they're not managed early."

The program aims to protect fragile streambanks from overgrazing, support the

regeneration of native vegetation, and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into local waterways as the catchment recovers.

"These incentives help landholders take practical steps now that will deliver long-term benefits for waterways and the broader fire-affected landscape," Mr Wellington said.

Landholders within the Longwood Fire footprint are encouraged to contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 5822 7700 to discuss eligibility, site priorities and available support.

The January 2026 Fire Recovery Program is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



Fencing along Seven Creeks to manage and protect waterways. -GBCMA

HAD YOUR



DAMAGED?

HAD YOUR



GO MISSING?

HAD YOUR



STOLEN?

HAD YOUR



BURGLER?

REGISTER YOUR



AND STAY SAFE

KEEP YOUR



WHILE AWAY

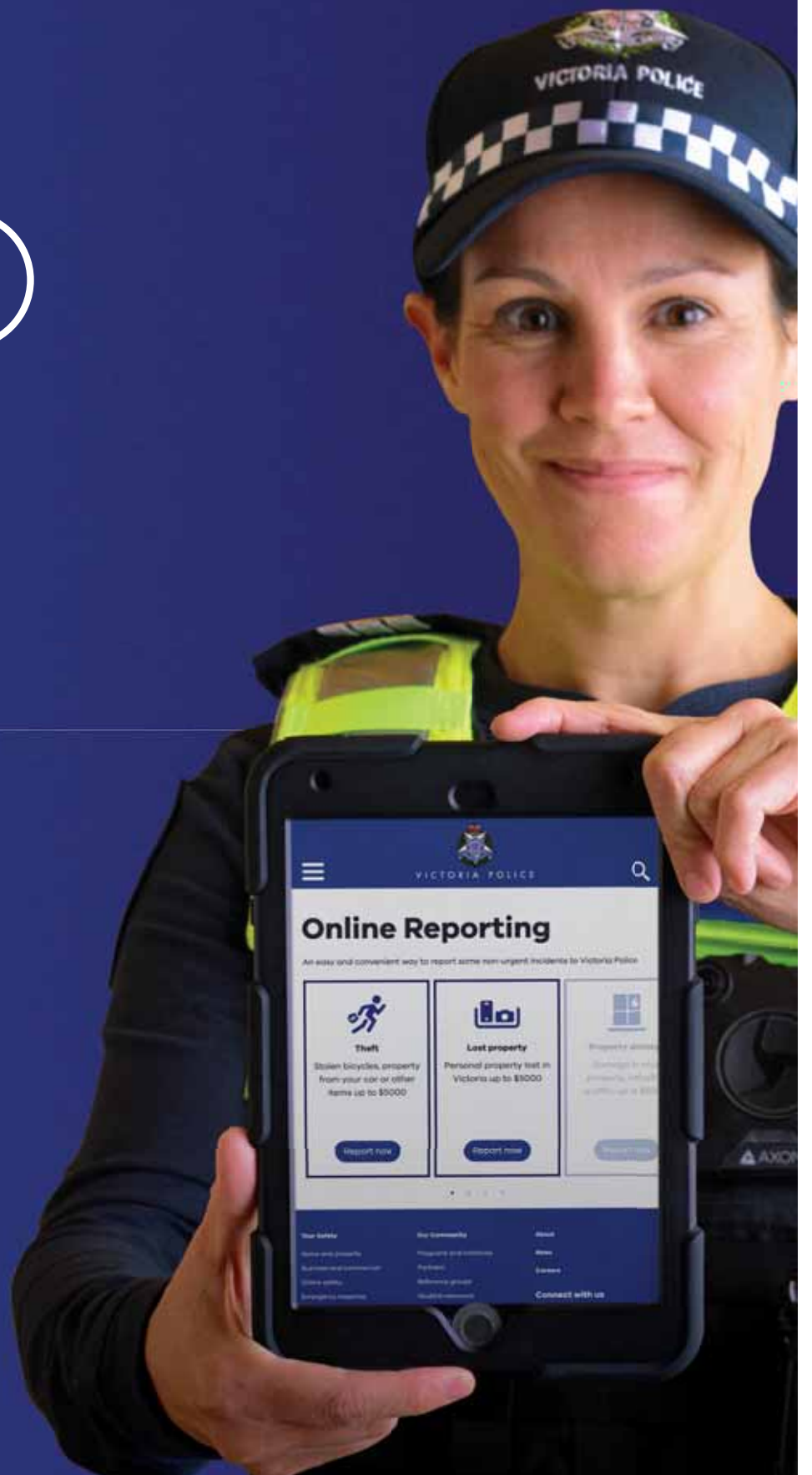


🔍 report online

ANYTIME



UPLOAD
YOUR
EVIDENCE
NOW





Xavier Jacobs placed a wreath on behalf of Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. -S

Anzac Day in Flowerdale

A MOVING ceremony was again held in Flowerdale in perfect conditions. The service was led by Colonel Paul Galea and organised under the auspices of the Flowerdale Community Hall and Flowerdale Landcare.

Beautiful wreaths presented on behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, Flowerdale Primary School and Yea High School.

Hall president, Gay Chatfield created a fantastic wreath using willow twigs collected at the creek. Local musician David Deans-Draper set the scene. The young people added to the dignity of the day as flag attendants and wreath layers. As is the custom at Flowerdale, the observance was concluded with a range of scones, biscuits, sausage rolls and a cuppa.



Charlie Allen and Aleyah Wilsher about to lay the Yea High School wreath. -S



There was a strong attendance at Anzac Day 2026 in Flowerdale. -S



Elliot and Marley raise the flags. -S



Stephen Joblin leading the singing of the national anthem. -S

Planned burns being undertaken in ideal autumn conditions

WITH calm autumn conditions across much of the state, communities can expect to see smoke in the air in coming weeks due to a mix of planned burns, private burns under CFA's permit system, agricultural burns and smoke from wood heaters.

While current conditions are ideal for burning, weather patterns may cause smoke to linger over parts of the state overnight and through to early morning on some days.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said it is crucial fire agencies take advantage of favourable conditions when they present.

"Planned burning on public land is one of the tools FFMVic uses to keep Victoria safer from bushfires," Mr Hardman said.

"With the current favourable weather and forest conditions this week, we are delivering as much planned burning as we can.

"Our climate is changing and that means finding the right days for safe and effective planned burning is becoming more challenging. Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable,

and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable.

"Reducing dry vegetation such as grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and small fallen branches means fires are less intense and slower to spread, making it more likely that firefighters can keep bushfires small and contained before they pose a risk to communities.

"We work closely with CFA, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Bureau of Meteorology to keep the smoke impact from planned burns as low as possible. We make every effort to make sure favourable weather conditions reduce smoke drift into communities.

"We recognise that Anzac Day is a significant day for veterans and communities.

"We encourage everyone to plan carefully for possible smoke impacts, particularly anyone with heart or lung conditions, older people, people with diabetes, children, infants, and pregnant women."

"Victorians can register to receive notifications of upcoming planned burns at the Planned Burns Victoria website."

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic AFSM said with fire restrictions lifting across most of the state, landholders starting to burn-off on their properties should remain vigilant before igniting their burn and ensure conditions are safe to do so.

"You may see a large amount of smoke in areas where these activities take place, so we ask farmers to let their neighbours know who may be sensitive to smoke so they can take necessary precaution," Mr Slijepcevic said.

"Any burning activity must always have someone in attendance, with enough water resources to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

"For greater awareness for emergency services and community members, burn-offs should be registered on the fire permits website or if you wish to start your burn-off immediately, register your burn-off by calling 1800 668 511."

Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist Jen Martin said EPA understands smoke from any source, including planned burns and private burn-offs can cause health concerns.

"If you see or smell smoke outside, be prepared. You can check the daily air quality and find ways to reduce your exposure to smoke on EPA's website," Dr Martin said.

"Your nose is also an excellent smoke detector. If you can smell smoke, take the necessary precautions to protect your health."

The Planned Burns Victoria website has details of all planned burns currently on the three-year Joint Fuel Management Program, visit plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/

To find out what can and can't be done during fire danger period, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

Check fire restrictions and register private burns at firepermits.vic.gov.au or call 1800 668 511.

For tips about looking after health and reducing your exposure to smoke go to epa.vic.gov.au/smoke-and-your-health

To check the air quality in your area go to epa.vic.gov.au/check-air-and-water-quality



Strong academic performance

Nation-leading NAPLAN results across Reading and Numeracy.

Top performing schools

Students are supported to consistently achieve high VCE and ATAR results.

High achiever programs

Programs that give students opportunities to thrive across academics, the arts, and sports, including thousands of STEM places at tech schools.

Highly skilled teachers

Supported by ongoing professional development and proven teaching techniques.

Your public school.
IT'S ALL HERE

Visit vic.gov.au/public-schools



The Education State

The Farmer's Ag News

Independent inquiry finds Murray-Darling Basin environmental program failed to deliver

A MAJOR independent inquiry has found that the Northern Basin Toolkit, a \$160 million package of infrastructure projects and policy reforms agreed to in exchange for reducing the northern basin's water recovery target under the Basin Plan, has severely underdelivered on its environmental commitments, with key infrastructure projects falling drastically short of their original targets over the program's seven years.

The inquiry was conducted by the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC), the Honourable Troy Grant, under the *Water Act 2007*, drawing on over 12,000 documents, 16 submissions, field visits across the northern basin, and interviews with senior officials from five government agencies.

The toolkit arose from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA's) 2016 Northern Basin Review, which reduced the northern basin's water recovery target from 390 to 320 gegalitres per year. The 70 gegalitres that remained in consumptive use was agreed on the basis of commitments by the Australian, New South Wales and Queensland Governments to deliver environmental outcomes through complementary measures; commitments this inquiry found were not met.

"Even ardent defenders of the implementation of this program would have conceded that delivery has been slow, fragmented, and in some cases lacking transparency," Mr Grant said.

Policy measures in the toolkit largely succeeded. Infrastructure projects, which received all the dedicated funding, largely did not.

The NSW Reconnecting the Northern Basin project has so far delivered just 64 kilometres of fish passage against an original target of 2135 kilometres. Despite over \$37 million in committed funding, the Gwydir Constraints project has not secured a single land purchase or flow easement. The Bifurcation Weirs project in Queensland never proceeded past the feasibility stage.

The Australian Government funds basin programs but depends on states to deliver them, and that only works when incentives are aligned and consequences are shared. The toolkit had neither. The 70 gegalitre reduction was secured through commitments alone, not proof of delivery. Funding agreements carried no penalties for non-delivery. When projects fell short, the environment bore the cost.

"Allowing delivery to be quietly scaled back undermines confidence in the Basin Plan," Mr Grant said.

The inquiry makes seven recommendations to maximise delivery of remaining commitments before the December 2026 deadline and identifies 11 lessons for future basin programs. It calls for accountability mechanisms that link funding to outcomes rather than planning milestones and ensuring any reductions in water recovery targets are matched by actual project delivery. These lessons are directly relevant to the current review of the Basin Plan.

"Complementary measures have a role to play in delivering positive environmental outcomes in the Murray-Darling Basin," Mr Grant said.

"However, they require excellence in design and implementation, which was too often missing in the Northern Basin Toolkit."

The full report is available at inquiry.igwc.gov.au

NFF statement on first agreements to underwrite shipments of fertiliser

by NFF President, Hamish McIntyre

THE Federal Government has announced it's working with fertiliser companies, CSBP (Wesfarmers) and Incitec Pivot, using the new Strategic Reserve powers to underwrite shipments of fuel and fertiliser. This framework enables companies to lock in shipments from overseas and get supply into the country faster.

NFF statement

This is a welcome and practical step that will help get fertiliser where it's needed most, and a direct result of advocacy and the importance of industry and government working together.

We also acknowledge the four additional shiploads of fuel that will deliver an extra 200 million litres of diesel from South Korea, Brunei and Malaysia.

We've been clear, fertiliser isn't optional for Australian farmers. Without it, we simply can't grow the food and fibre Australia relies on. Australian agriculture is on track to contribute more than \$100 billion to the economy this year and supports over 250,000 jobs, with nearly all production reliant on fertiliser and diesel.

This outcome reflects the government acting on the concerns we've been raising directly on behalf of farmers. Coupled with last week's announcement securing 250,000 tonnes of urea, it will help restore some confidence heading into the season.

But we are still a long way from being out of the woods. Despite this news, farmers and regional businesses are still under real pressure, facing tight supply, rising costs and tough decisions.

NFF calls for funding for Regional Tech Hub to assist with UOMO rollout

PICTURE this: Your car breaks down on a single-lane dirt road in the middle of nowhere country. Looking both ways down the road, you see nothing visible for miles. No houses. No other cars on the road. No sign of civilisation. A look under the bonnet reveals smoke billowing from the engine and a problem you can't fix.

You pull out your mobile phone to call for assistance, only to find there is no signal. You're stuck.

In February of 2025, the Australian Government took the first step in providing a solution to this common scenario. They announced the Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO) that will require mobile carriers to provide access to mobile voice and SMS almost everywhere across the country.

The policy means that anyone with the right handset will be able to call or text from anywhere they can see the sky by December of 2027.

In their announcement of the Uomo, the Federal Government laid out their policy objectives relating to improving mobile coverage. These included expanding Triple Zero access for Australians across the nation, expanding outdoor voice and SMS coverage into existing mobile black spots, and improving the availability of mobile signals during disasters and power outages.

Federal Minister for Communications at the time of the announcement, Michelle Rowland, spoke to the importance of the Uomo.

"The Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation will improve public safety, increase resilience during natural disasters, and provide an extra layer of coverage in areas previously thought too difficult or costly to reach," Ms Rowland said.

"The experience will be different to land mobile networks, but the benefits transformative, particularly for a large continent such as ours."

This reform is possible due to global innovations in Low Earth Orbit Satellites (LEOSats) and the arrival of direct to device (D2D) technology, which enables signals from space direct to mobile devices.

Now the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is calling for continued funding for the Regional Tech Hub program in next month's Federal Budget by designating it an essential service.

The Regional Tech Hub, launched in 2020 and fully funded by the Federal Government ever since, is a NFF-run service providing free and independent advice to regional, rural and remote communities to help with their phone and internet.

Individuals, community organisations, local councils, small businesses and primary producers rely on the hub to understand their connectivity options, resolve phone and internet challenges, and make informed decisions about the services available to them.

By translating complex telecommunications information into clear, practical guidance, the Regional Tech Hub helps regional Australians stay connected, productive and able to participate fully in the digital economy.

As National Cabinet meets this week, we need continued action to shore up supply, an agriculture-specific plan and targeted support for those facing circumstances no business could reasonably prepare for.

Key NFF asks

An agriculture-specific plan to secure fuel and fertiliser supply for farmers and fishers into the uncertain months ahead, including clear 'trigger points' for government-escalated action to safeguard food production in both the short and medium term. The plan must drive sector coordination across all jurisdictions and all commodities.

Last year, more than 28,000 regional Australians received direct connectivity support from the Regional Tech Hub, more than 75 people each day. Some 327,254 people visited the Regional Tech Hub website, 7877 phoned the Regional Tech Helpdesk, and 3480 people were helped by a member of the Regional Tech Hub team in-person at an event.

In a submission to the Uomo's Senate Inquiry, NFF CEO Mike Guerin said people will be left behind if there isn't independent, plain-English help on hand.

"The Regional Tech Hub is critical to a successful Uomo implementation," Mr Guerin said.

"In a three-month period, the hub recorded more than 77,500 website users driven by major developments such as nbn's fixed wireless rollout and concerns over the Triple Zero outages.

"With technology options becoming increasingly complex, and with more changes on the horizon, independent support is more important than ever for rural, regional and remote Australians trying to stay connected.

"The Regional Tech Hub provides free, practical and independent advice to help people navigate complex connectivity decisions and bridge the gap between what services are available, and what consumers actually understand and know how to use.

"Connectivity gaps continue to plague families and businesses in the bush and the Regional Tech Hub plays a vital role in helping close those gaps during periods of rapid change."

Each year the service has grown its reach and successfully supported initiatives such as the On Farm Connectivity Information Service. However, the service's future depends on funding in next month's Federal Budget.

"Farmers and regional Australians are anxiously awaiting news on whether the budget will continue to fund this vital service," Mr Guerin said.

"The Regional Tech Hub has been the helping hand to guide regional Australians through Triple Zero outages and the 3G network shutdown.

"The Uomo is a world-first policy. If we get it right, Australia becomes the gold standard for regional communications.

"But, past experience has shown, these things rarely go to plan and Australians will need the support of services like the Regional Tech Hub to get the full benefit of the Uomo.

"The Regional Tech Hub is a vital service, which helps an average of 75 regional Aussies every single day. Our health, businesses, education, and ultimately, our lives, rely on telecommunications.

"There is no other service like it. We need the Regional Tech Hub now more than ever," Mr Guerin finished.

The NFF's submission to the Uomo Senate Inquiry can be found at tinyurl.com/4v5wanav

The Regional Tech Hub can be found at regionaltechhub.org.au

The government must continue to use regulatory tools to increase supply of fuel and fertiliser into regional areas, such as what we have seen announced recently.

The inclusion of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry industries as Essential Users under the *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984*.

The government must provide targeted business support for farming businesses facing acute financial pressure.

The acceleration of medium to long term solutions to strengthen supply chains, including building Australia's sovereign capability, biofuels industry and a National Food Security Strategy that prioritises critical input supplies.

FREE Health Checks for the FARMING COMMUNITY

MouthMapping Oral Cancer Screen



Friday 1 May 2026

FREE Influenza Vaccinations



Friday 22 May & 5 June 2026

FREE Hearing Tests



Friday 3 July 2026

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
 0405 554 915
 info@chris-tv.com.au
 Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV
 The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured Fully Vaccinated

EXCAVATION & EARTH-MOVING

RIDH
 EXCAVATIONS

SITE CUTS • DRIVEWAYS • DAMS
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

CALL RILEY
0490 850 174

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

buckner built

Residential and Commercial builders since 1999.
 We are located at Eildon and Williamstown Victoria

We provide the following services;

- New homes
- Extensions and renovations
- Commercial building work

We can provide the engineering & drafting services for your build if required.

www.bucknerbuilt.com.au
 Scott 0409 121 269
 scott@bucknergroupp.com.au

FENCING

McMASTER FENCING CONTRACTOR

All general farm fencing, cattle yards, sheep yards, vineyards, on site welding and oxy work.
 Tree plantation ripping
 5 hydraulic post drivers and pneumatic drivers

GRASS SLASHING
 4 extra heavy duty slashers

GENERAL FREIGHT
 Hay, timber, wool, steel, grapes, machinery

GLEN (HORACE) McMASTER
 5797 2921
 Mobile 0417 529 809

CONVEYANCING

Sargeants
 CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
 5772 2500
 71 Grant Street, Alexandra
 debra@sargeantsm.com.au
 Conveyancing throughout Victoria

PLANNING SERVICES

Navy Blue Planning
 Urban and Regional Planning Specialists

+ Planning approvals + Subdivision
 + Masterplanning

Melbourne | Alexandra | Mansfield | Morwell

0419 006 014
 www.navyblueplanning.com.au
 admin@navyblueplanning.com.au

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

E-TEC
 Electrical Technology

- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations & Batteries

Ph 0418 543 310
 info@e-tec.net.au
 www.etecelectrical.com.au

PLUMBERS

G (Jack) McMaster

Plumbing Lic No 29767 YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

- New work & Renovations • Domestic & Commercial
- Septic tanks, Water tanks • Pumps etc • Gas Fitting
- Roofing & Spouting • Trenching • Backflow Prevention

Ph 0428 972 386

SERVICE STATIONS

Simpson's FUEL 70 YEARS

Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953
 with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
 Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs
 with Mobil and Prolube lubricant, greases and solvent s.

EXCAVATION & EARTH-MOVING

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK
EARTH MOVING

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
 Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
 Backhoe ~ Water Carts
 Low Loader ~ Tipper
 Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
 PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
 keathsex@bigpond.com

Ampol Alexandra
 Ampol Eildon
 Mansfield Diesel Stop **AMPOL**

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

WATER BORING

North West Drilling

Water Bores

Extensive experience in drilling for water in Mansfield, Alexandra and surrounding areas.
 Established since 1976

For answers to all your questions and a no obligation free quote contact GRAHAM BRENNAN
 Phone/Fax: (03) 9436 1982 Mobile: 0409 362 289
 northwest.drilling@bigpond.com
 www.northwestdrilling.com.au

First ever stocking of critically endangered fish

ONE of Victoria's rarest native fish, the West Gippsland galaxias, has been released into the Tyers River in a world-first stocking of the critically endangered species.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said hundreds of hatchery-bred West Gippsland galaxias have been released, marking a major milestone in efforts to recover the species in the wild.

Currently, the West Gippsland galaxias is found only in a small tributary of the La Trobe River, north of Traralgon. Its population suffered a 97 per cent decline between 2002 and 2012 due to sedimentation, bushfires, drought stress, and predation.

"For the first time, the species has been successfully bred at the VFA's Conservation Hatchery at Snobs Creek, giving scientists and fisheries managers a powerful new tool to support its recovery.

"A tributary of the Tyers River was carefully selected as a suitable release site by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), with high-quality habitat and conditions that maximise the chances of survival for the stocked fish," Mr Dowling said.

Representatives from Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation attended the stocking, which was coordinated by DEECA's Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI), recognising the importance of partnerships in protecting and restoring native species and waterways.

The stocking was made possible thanks to funding from the Federal Government's Saving Native Species Program.

The milestone coincides with the two-year anniversary of the VFA's Conservation Hatchery at Snobs Creek, and the broader 10inTen conservation program, which aims to restock and recover ten of Victoria's most at-risk aquatic species by 2034.

In just two years, the VFA and ARI's 10inTen program has made significant progress, including world-first breakthroughs, breeding and safeguarding some of the state's most at-risk aquatic species such as the Glenelg freshwater mussel, Moroka and McDowall's galaxias, river blackfish, Macquarie perch and trout cod.

For information about the 10inTen plan, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/10inten



West Gippsland galaxias. -S

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	S	C	L	E	M	E	N	C	Y
F	L	E	E	C	E	I	A	O	
L	R	L	O	U	N	G	I	N	G
S	E	R	E	N	E	C	L	A	
G	N	B	I	P	E	D	B		
F	E	T	A	R	E	E	V	E	N
D	D	I	A	G	R	A	M	N	
C	L	U	E	T	S	O	M	E	N
Y	S	W	E	D	E	C	F		
M	M	O	V	E	R	M	I	N	
E	M	I	G	R	A	T	E		
S	S	S	R	A	C	K	E	T	
H	E	S	I	T	A	T	E	Y	D

MATH SQUARES

8	-	3	+	1	6
÷		+		+	
2	×	4	+	5	13
-		+		×	
7	+	6	-	9	4
-3		13		46	

CRYPTOGRAM

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 1 10 17 11 6 14 25 16 21 13 23 24 2 4 20 3 9 7 19 22 8 5 26 15 12 18

LOWER THAN A SNAKES BELLY

SUDOKU

9	5	8	6	2	7	1	3	4
4	7	3	8	9	1	6	2	5
6	2	1	5	3	4	7	8	9
5	3	2	7	6	8	4	9	1
7	9	4	2	1	3	5	6	8
8	1	6	9	4	5	3	7	2
3	4	9	1	7	2	8	5	6
2	8	7	4	5	6	9	1	3
1	6	5	3	8	9	2	4	7

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

3	-	4	+	1	0
+		-		-	
2	+	5	-	9	-2
+		-		+	
8	-	7	-	6	-5
13		-8		-2	

Don't let measles make a comeback this winter

AS winter approaches, the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) is urging people across the region to check that their vaccinations for flu, measles and RSV are up to date to help protect themselves, their families and the wider community.

According to the World Health Organisation, since 1974, immunisation has saved six lives every minute, with the measles vaccine accounting for approximately 60 per cent of those lives saved.

With flu season fast approaching and an increased risk of measles across Victoria, GVPHU is urging the community to act now.

"Flu season is coming. Get your vaccination to stay in the game, stay at work, stay in class and stay healthy," Dr Vinay Menon, Medical Lead for the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit said. "At the same time, we're asking our community not to let measles make a comeback. Now is the time to check your vaccination history. If you're unsure about your protection, speak with your GP or pharmacist about the MMR vaccine."

Vaccines are available free of charge to eligible people through the National Immunisation Program and Victorian Government-funded programs. In many cases, people can receive their flu and MMR vaccines at the same appointment. Always check with your doctor or pharmacist to confirm this is right for you.

People can also check their immunisation history through the Australian Immunisation Register or MyGov. If you're unsure whether you are due for a vaccine, speak with your GP or a participating community pharmacy provider.

Measles is one of the most infectious viruses in the world and spreads easily through the air. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes, and a red blotchy rash that usually starts on the face and spreads down the body.

"If you or a family member develops these symptoms, particularly after overseas travel or visiting known exposure areas, seek medical advice immediately and call ahead before attending a clinic or hospital," Dr Menon said. In serious cases, measles can lead to complications, including pneumonia and inflammation of the brain.

From May 15, additional protection will be available for older adults with the introduction of funded RSV vaccination under the National Immunisation Program. This vaccine will help protect vulnerable older adults from severe illness caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common virus that can lead

to serious lung infections and hospitalisation. Eligible groups include adults aged 75 years and older, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 60 and above.

Flu can spread quickly through workplaces, schools, sporting clubs and households. Getting vaccinated helps protect against severe illness and helps keep people active, connected and doing the things they love. "Getting vaccinated is a small act that protects the whole community. It's how we keep our children safe, our communities strong, and our winters healthier," Dr. Menon said. "Now is the time to book your flu vax and check your measles immunisation history. Encourage a loved one to do the same. Together, we're keeping our region healthier, one vaccine at a time."

Disability access plans for the shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked whether they are developing any plans around disability access in the shire, particularly regarding footpaths and shire owned buildings.

They responded, "Council recognises that safe, dignified and accessible movement through our towns and public buildings is essential for people of all abilities, and improving disability access across the shire remains an ongoing priority.

"Across council-owned buildings, upgrades are being delivered progressively as part of planned renewal programs and as funding allows. A current project is in planning to improve accessibility at the Alexandra Shire Hall and Council Chambers, including consideration of circulation and entry arrangements. The Yea Shire Hall already provides disability access via a side entrance, and council seeks to ensure access arrangements are equitable, functional and respectful, while also working within the constraints of heritage buildings and existing layouts.

"Council is also continuing to upgrade footpaths and pedestrian crossings to better meet disability access standards. These works are prioritised based on safety, usage, connectivity and identified need. In recent years, several crossings in High Street in Yea have been upgraded, and further significant improvements are planned within the Grant Street commercial precinct in Alexandra, with delivery expected within the next 12 months.

"Community feedback has highlighted ongoing concerns in some locations, including streets without footpaths and crossings that are difficult to use for people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Council uses this feedback, condition assessments and technical advice, to inform forward planning and prioritisation across the network.

"New footpaths are typically delivered as part of subdivision or redevelopment, while upgrades in established areas often rely on external funding support. It is important to acknowledge that many residential streets were constructed historically without footpaths. Council continues to actively advocate for grant funding to be accelerate improvements in priority locations. Recent examples include footpath works delivered in Hall Street, Alexandra, and Falls Road, Marysville.

"Council will continue to assess opportunities, pursue funding and progressively deliver improvements to ensure our streets and public buildings are safer, more accessible and inclusive for everyone who lives in or visits Murrindindi Shire."

Government announces additional family violence supports

THE Victorian Government is boosting support to help victim-survivors of family violence to stay safe and rebuild their lives, with the *Victorian Budget 2026/27* investing \$3.5 million to expand the Personal Safety Initiative.

The Personal Safety Initiative allows victim survivors to access important, but often costly, practical security upgrades. This includes stronger doors and locks, alarms, lighting and security cameras. It means more women will be able to access this program and feel safe in their own home.

Women and children from diverse backgrounds experiencing family violence often face unique barriers, risks and gaps in accessing support, so the government is investing \$6.4 million from the *Strengthening Women's Safety Package* to expand access to specialist family violence support for multicultural and multifaith women, women on temporary visas, children and young people, older women, women leaving prison, women with disability, and gender diverse Victorians.

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!
Fax: 5772 1603 or Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS Pty. Ltd.

Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads proofs not supplied
Display will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

DEATH NOTICES

MCCOLM, Jillian Mary
14/03/1939 - 25/04/2026
Loved wife of Ken (dec).
Loved mum of Paul, Catherine and Alexandra. Loved Nan of Sarah and Jamie. Much loved friend and companion of David. Rest in Peace.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Established Mowing Business For Sale.
Regular ongoing clientele base. Equipment included: trailer, ride on mower, push mower and whipper snipper. Hand over with introductions included for a smooth start. Call Luke for a chat. 0418 522 842.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
Alexandra
Treadmills, X-trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.
PH:0407 231 377

IN MEMORIAM

GERARD (Gerry) O'Connor
17/08/1932 - 29/04/2010.
16 years have now passed since you left Yea on your journey to your heavenly home, where St Peter was waiting for you to arrive, "Come on in Gerry, we have been waiting for you to arrive". Good night, God bless, sweet dreams. Until we meet again, our special love forever. Peg (your Maggie) and our lads and their families.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

Alexandra Cemetery Working Bee.
Sunday, 3rd May, 10am onwards. Morning tea provided. Contact Melissa 0408 465 148

MEETINGS

Notice of Rescheduled Annual General Meeting



Friends of the Library Alexandra & District Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of FOL Alexandra & District Inc., originally scheduled for April 7, 2026, has been postponed due to lack of quorum.

New date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6pm
Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra
New members welcome
Nomination forms for committee positions available from the secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au

SITUATION VACANT



We are HIRING Kitchen Chef/Cook

We're on the lookout for a Kitchen Chef/Cook to join our team. Join us as a School Camp Chef/Cook and enjoy:

- A fun, supportive team environment
 - A great workplace surrounded by nature
 - Fantastic Monday to Friday hours—weekends free.
- You'll be preparing hearty, nutritious meals for both students and staff, helping create memorable camp experiences.

• School camp located just outside of Alexandra
• Consistent weekday hours
• Great team culture
Relevant qualifications preferred but not required. Previous experience necessary. If this sounds like the right opportunity, we'd love to hear from you!
To chat further, call us on 5772 1409 or email info@alexandraadventureresort.com.au

Additional funding budgeted for the CFA

The *Victorian Budget 2026/27* will include an expansion to CFA's rolling fleet replacement program.

The press release states, "An additional \$100 million for new CFA tankers and pumpers to ensure our firefighting fleet can protect Victorians. The budget also includes \$26.2 million for CFA station builds, planning, land acquisition and upgrades." These upgrades are not located in Murrindindi Shire.

The government will also deliver \$22.4 million for more wellbeing support, training and new protective gear.

Forest firefighters will receive a \$217 million investment to purchase 17 new assets including heavy tankers, dozers and graders, deliver upgrades to the vehicle fleet, secure the critical aviation fire fleet, and conduct more planned burns and fuel management.

Danny O'Brien, Leader of the Nationals, responded to the announcement, saying that the government had "conveniently left out that it will be distributed over 10 years."

He added, "This is a joke. This funding spread over 10 years doesn't come anywhere near what is required to adequately replace the CFA's ageing fleet. There are at least 630 old single cab tankers in the fleet, and more than 10 per cent of tankers are more than 30 years old. This funding will not even begin to modernise the fleet. It's also a fraction of the \$3 billion extra the government is collecting from Victorians in emergency services tax. Where is the rest of the money going?"

At present, new tankers cost \$465,000 and pumpers \$1 million.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria estimates the CFA needs to replace 100 appliances each year at a cost of \$60 million just to stop the age of the fleet going backwards.

A government spokesperson was asked for further information on the funding. They

confirmed that the funding is over 10 years and said it's "designed to provide certainty and a steady pipeline of new appliances."

They said, "In 2026-27 alone, CFA will have up to \$53 million available for fleet, combining around \$10 million from the new \$100 million commitment, around \$10 million from the existing rolling fleet replacement program, around \$10 million from CFA base funding, and up to \$23 million through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). That level of funding will

significantly accelerate the replacement of ageing appliances, particularly older tankers that raise safety concerns."

"The \$26.2 million for CFA station builds, upgrades, planning and land acquisition is being delivered through the current budget, with projects rolling out as planning and approvals are completed, not spread evenly over 10 years. This approach allows CFA to act now on stations already in the pipeline while also planning ahead for future needs."

Asked for information on whether any of the new tankers and pumpers would be for Murrindindi Shire brigades, the spokesperson responded, "CFA does not release a fixed, public brigade-by-brigade list in advance, because fleet allocation is an operational decision based on risk and need. CFA uses a statewide prioritisation process, considering factors such as local fire risk, call-out rates, the condition and age of existing appliances, and regional roles."

Some more of our wonderful unsung heroes

Jye Savage definitely needs a shout out for all his epic work putting the hay run together. -Francine Smith

Sam Hicks. Sasha Barrows. Ray Mackey. Andrew Embling. Aidan Embling. Tim Winter. Jarrod Smith. Bushfire heroes. Ray Mackey is from Acheron. He and Tim Winter and Jarrod Smith saved fires from getting into Black Range and joining up with big fires. Alone with farm and home made equipment they held a huge spot fire that turned into 20ha and saved several farms and houses in the district. -Vee Scott

Dan Lawrence - He came across from Axedale to help his brother save his Dad's property in Swan Road. -Karen Mckenzie

All the goodness in people simply poured out of our local towns. For me, having no home or clothes, the support of **Burton's IGA Euroa** donating new clothes and boots for my family and through the pop-up shops was so important, and **Shez Marchenko** and **Kathryn Goodall** keeping the Longwood Relief Centre. Donations of food, kitchenware, furniture and offers of accommodation came from so many. Particular thanks to **Steven Jeffery** for the perfect house for us to recover rebuild and be able to work from home. **Longwood Primary School** for their emotional support, donations, and care of our son. **Paula Burton** for taking Otis on some fun and distracting activities. Gift vouchers from work colleagues and family have helped us get the things we need. It just goes on. - Michelle Hanslow

The Longwood Community, every single member, family, friend and helper, past and present. The staff and children of the **Longwood Primary School**, the **Longwood Football and Netball Club**, and all the groups that make a community, it has always been and hopefully will always be. The Longwood Fires only just displayed it to the world. - Ron Socnik

Shez Marchenko and **Kathryn Goodall** for the visionary and tireless efforts setting up the bushfire relief centre at the Longwood Football Netball Club.



Thank you to all who helped and supported each other following the Longwood fire. -Petro Stelce

Incredible women who are still serving those in need, while they juggle their own family, work, friends, homes, and network. - Heather Yelland

All of the crew, both locals and out of area volunteers, at the **Ruffy stock feed depot** and all the ladies and gents at the **Ruffy Hall** who are still going strong. -Gavin Henderson

Shez Marchenko and **Kathryn Goodall** for heading up and still now continuing the bushfire relief centre at the Longwood Recreation Reserve. - Maddi Milne

The **Embling team** for staying open and having what was needed on hand regardless of all they were going through themselves. The guys from **Fifth Gen Constructions** for taking so much time off work to do hay runs all over the area. **Andrew Embling** for organising the hay depot. **Menzies support services** for the community wardrobe that helped so many. - Emily Salmon

Chris Lynch and the CFA teams from here and all over the state. The businesses who stepped up in those first dreadful days when there was no power and we were isolated, especially **FoodWorks**, **Alexandra Pharmacy**, the **Alexandra Opp Shop**, **Kev and Sirikarn's cafe** and **Grant St Grocer**. They opened despite few staff and were so important. **Alexandra**

Rotary Club immediately asked for donations and set up a voucher centre in the **Alexandra and Eildon Woodworkers** building. These vouchers could only be used in Alexandra and supported local businesses. The Woodworkers let Rotary use the space from 9am to 3pm every day and also collected tools and implements. **The Alexandra Lions Club** distributed their own vouchers and provided an amazing array of tools, etcetera. The **Menzies Centre** set up a **Recovery Wardrobe** for people who had lost so much. **Foundation Murrindindi** provided food, bedding, clothes and referrals for people. **The Alex Hub** assisted locals to apply for government assistance and also gave immediate relief. **SP Ausnet** and various internet companies worked long hours to restore electricity. **Murrindindi Shire Council** coordinated many of these activities behind the scenes. **The SES** was called out to many difficult and dangerous situations. Now **Blaze Aid** is doing a wonderful job erecting fences and providing encouragement to farmers. They are being cared for by the **Alex Football/Netball Club** where they have caravans and showers. **Need for Feed** organised by the **Lions Club**. -Alexandra Rotary

Bushfire safety information to be released

THE state Opposition is accusing the government of deliberately hiding bushfire risk management reports, leaving regional communities to face Victoria's fire seasons without knowing the real risk around them.

The reports provide localised bushfire risk and fuel hazard levels, information farmers, families and communities need to prepare for a bushfire season and stay safe.

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management Melina Bath said, "It's appalling Labor knowingly withheld critical bushfire safety information, meaning regional Victorians went into fire seasons not knowing their bushfire risk was extreme.

"Recent fire seasons have seen the tragic loss of human life, homes lost, and livestock lost. For a government to have not released the reports that may have lessened this devastation, is beyond comprehension."

Ms Bath said the reports were kept hidden as they would have exposed the government's bushfire unpreparedness.

"This is a government more interested in self-protection than public safety. And it just demonstrates the little regard this city-focussed government has for regional Victoria."

She said that the cover-up occurred while hundreds of frontline firefighting vehicles were taken out of service, including faulty Unimogs and G-Wagons, stripping firefighters of critical capability when fuel hazards were at their worst.

A recent motion, successfully passed through the Legislative Council by the Opposition, will see the bushfire risk documents finally released.

"Victorians deserve the truth, not a government that hides fuel hazard warnings and leaves communities to face bushfires without knowing the risks around them," Ms Bath said.

Nominations open to honour lifetime contributions of Victorian seniors

THE Victorian Government is celebrating the extraordinary contributions of older Victorians, with Victorians encouraged to nominate seniors who are making a real difference in their communities.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt last Wednesday opened nominations for the 2026 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

"Older Victorians play a vital role in keeping our communities strong, safe and inclusive. These awards recognise the difference they make every day," Ms Stitt said.

"If you know a senior Victorian who goes above and beyond for their community, now is the time to nominate them so we can celebrate their contributions."

For more than 30 years, these awards have recognised the lasting impact of older Victorians. From mentoring young people, supporting Victorians experiencing disadvantage and promoting social connection, seniors are strengthening communities. Their contributions are building a stronger, safer and more connected Victoria.

Last year's Victorian Senior of the Year, Patrick Templeton, was honoured for his work supporting disadvantaged young people through community outreach programs.

Other recipients were recognised for backing road safety programs, strengthening social cohesion and spreading awareness about reconciliation and sustainability.

There are six categories of awards in 2026, including: The *Premier's Award for*

Victorian Senior of the Year for outstanding and lasting contributions; the *Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Award* for local community champions; the *Emerging Impact Award* recognising new volunteers that are already making an impact; the *Positive Ageing Award* for promoting positive and active ageing; the *Promotion of Multiculturalism Award* for advancing cultural diversity; and the *Veteran Community Award* for service to the veteran community.

The awards will be presented in October as part of the annual Victorian Seniors Festival. Nominations are now open and close on May 19, 2026.

To find out more and nominate an older Victorian making a real difference, visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards

Anzac Day in Yea



There was a large turnout in Yea for Anzac Day. -S



Flight Lieutenant Daniel Corbett with his wife and children, and Jeff Swain, after placing wreaths on behalf of the Australian Defence Force and NZ Defence Force. -S



Yea police salute. -S



Ambulance Victoria members placing their wreath. -S



Cr Sue Carpenter placing a wreath. -S



Students from Sacred Heart Primary School laying their wreath. -S



Yea Rotary President Darryl King laying a wreath on behalf of the club. -S



Yea RSL President Jeff Swain with Jennifer Keast. -S

SPORT

Yea footballers and netballers take on Alexandra and Thornton-Eildon

THE teams from Yea Football Netball Club travelled to Alexandra to take on Alexandra in last week's round, with the exception of the women's team, who played Thornton-Eildon in Thornton.

Football

The Yea women's team 129 defeated Thornton-Eildon women's team 0 at Thornton Recreation Reserve.

The Yea seniors 54 were defeated by Alexandra 154 at Rebel Park in Alexandra.

Yea reserves 12 were defeated by Alexandra 93 in Alexandra.

Netball

In A Grade, Yea 54 defeated Alexandra 50.

B Grade, Yea 48 defeated Alexandra 35.

C Grade, Yea 48 defeated Alexandra 22.

D Grade had a bye.



The Yea and Thornton-Eildon women's teams commemorating Anzac Day before play. -S



Yea looking to move the ball. -Savannah Gregory Photography



Autumn contest between Yea and Alexandra netballers. -Savannah Gregory Photography



Going for a spectacular mark. -Savannah Gregory Photography

Winter tennis kicks off with pretty in pink theme

by Deb Mims

YOU couldn't have asked for a more perfect day to kick off the Euroa and District Ladies' Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) competition. A tradition that was started a few years ago of a round robin to commence the season, with this year a suggestion that a theme be picked, to add to the fun and raise funds.

Breast Cancer was suggested and with that in mind, pink was at the forefront of everyone's thoughts, digging out shirts, skirts, socks, hats and any item that could be found that was pink. Even a tutu.

Benalla, who usually hosts the round robin, couldn't due to a new floor being laid in their clubhouse, so Mansfield put up their hand. Always a fun day, as instead of playing against other clubs, they were suddenly your partner. A terrific way to start the season with two new players attending and meeting people from various teams. Even pink tennis balls were used to add to the occasion.



Cathie Anderson from Mansfield, Lyndal Bigland from Creightons Creek, Frances Lawrence from Terip Terip, and Sue Vaughan from Moglonemby pointing out the pink ball. -S

As always with the EDLWTA, a superb afternoon tea followed along with lots of chatter. With just over \$140 raised it was a successful day all round.

The serious stuff starts next week with Mansfield's team, Wappan playing at home and the other Mansfield team playing in Euroa.

If anyone is interested in being a fill-in, contact Deb Mims on 0411 149 085 for more information. A criteria is that you must be a current financial member (2025/2026) of a tennis club.



Cindy Hayes from Terip Terip and Kerry Hewlett from Creightons Creek, both dressed in pink for the theme. -S



Ball up in the Yea versus Alexandra football game at Rebel Park. -Savannah Gregory Photography



The Yea golf course in ideal autumn conditions. -S

Four Ball Best Ball Championships at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

LAST Saturday saw the Four Ball Best Ball Championships contested at Yea Golf Club in ideal conditions with 30 players.

The Ladies' Championship is named for Laraine Callandar/Lorraine Christie, two former champions of the club. Winners of the day with an outstanding 49 points were Di Elliott (29) and Vicki Clements (23). Second were last year's winners Cindy Armstrong (29) and Judi Newman (38) with 46 points. Judi had the best individual score with 40 points from Di with 39. It was fabulous to

have Laraine Callander present the winners with their trophies.

In the men's section, named after Rick Wills and Ross Davis, Paul Heyen (23) and Jim Redmond (23) combined for 47 points to win the championship. This was Jim's first board event win. In second with 43 points were Alan (13) and Zach Pell (11). Alan won the nearest the pin on the 18th and Paul won the individual stableford with 39 on countback from Alan.

Last Wednesday saw the men play a three person multiplied stableford event.

Unfortunately for each team if one of the players had a pick-up then the team score for that hole was zero.

Winners of the 15 men who played were Kevin Coghlan (21), Mic Sheather (24) and Martin Lowe (15) with 128 points. Second were Phil Armstrong (19), Greg Clements (17) and Rob O'Halloran (21) with 117. Greg was the best individual with 39 points from Martin on 38. Clint Rose was nearest the pin on the 18th and Bob Glenister, Brian Priestley and Clint Rose took out the club award.



Paul Heyen with his trophies for the event. -S



Di Elliott and Vicki Clements took out the win in the ladies' contest, being presented their trophy by Laraine Callander (middle). -S

Alexandra Squash Club: Round one of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Funnel Webs versus Orb Weavers

JIM (fill in) versus Eric: Jim filled in to do some coaching and the pair had a great game. Keeping the ball in play, Jim challenged Eric to keep the rally going and play some winning shots. Jim won the match. 51 to 37.

Daniel W (fill in) versus Jessica: Daniel filled in down a few levels to give Jessica a match as her opponent was a no show. Jess demonstrated good discipline playing down the wall but also hit many low winners when the opportunity was there. The winner was Daniel. 57 to 43.

Sam versus Chris: Sam has moved up a level and was strutting his stuff after blitzing the first game, but Chris tightened the screws to grind Sam down. Chris claimed the victory. 71 to 58.

John versus Michael: A tight contest from start to finish. Michael had scratched out a three-point lead after three-games, but John closed the gap in the fourth game for a tie. 61 to 61.

Redbacks versus Trapdoors

Matt versus Tyler: Quite a good game to watch, the lads were quite evenly matched, but Matt was just a bit more consistent with his shots. Matt was the winner. 69 to 51.

Sally versus Laura: An amazing game. These two always bring a high level of skill to the contest and this contest went down to the wire. Laura was victorious with a one-point lead. 61 to 60.

Mick versus Rob: Mick gained the early advantage while Rob brushed out the cobwebs after his extended break. Rob found his range in the second game to close the gap, then pushed ahead in the final two games to win. 66 to 57.

Jim versus Daniel W: A clash of styles and a battle of wits. Daniel's power game can trouble Jim when executed well, but Jim pushed the ball high and deep to put Daniel on the back foot. Jim put together a run of tight serves that forced loose shots from Daniel that Jim was able to put away. Daniel threw everything he had at the ball in the final game, but Jim held it together to win. 54 to 51.

Wednesday competition Mosquitos versus Sand flies

Nicole (fill in) versus Ben H: Nicole was playing her second match for the night. Ben's serves were giving Nicole trouble, but she didn't fold and kept up with Ben. Both players won two games each and ended the match in a draw. 50 to 50.

Mick versus Jess: A tight match. Two games drew but Mick capitalised on his chances to win the other games and clinch the match. 59 to 48.

Daniel K (fill in) versus Phil: Phil put in some good work to keep up with Daniel. But it was a one man show with Daniel taking home all the games and the match. 63 to 40.

Bees versus Hornets

Marty versus Nicole: Amazing match between family. In the end Marty got the match. A great game played well. 56 to 47.

Lucas versus Kristelle: It was level playing in the first game. Kristelle struggled to play shots over the towering frame of her opponent. Lucas held the serve and was serving well which kept him ahead to win the match. 67 to 57.

Justin versus Ben F: It was a sensational competition. Going into the last game there was only a one-point difference. Justin put on a final burst of brilliance to pull ahead and claim the match. 55 to 53.

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Spread matches for Yea junior netballers

by Jo Madden

LAST week saw the Yea Football Netball Club's netball teams competing across three different locations. The 11 and Under side travelled to Seymour to take on Seymour Lions, while both 13 and Under teams headed to Broadford for matches against Broadford's sides. Meanwhile, the 15 and Under team kicked off their season at Rebel Park against Alexandra.

Yea 13 and Under Yellow faced a strong and well-drilled Broadford Blue outfit, going down 3-32. Despite the result, the team showed determination and will regroup at training this week, ready to put in the work ahead of their home game against Broadford White next round.

Yea 13 and Under Black delivered an impressive performance, securing a convincing 31-12 win over Broadford White. It was a fantastic team effort and a great way to start their campaign.

The teams are all looking forward to being back together on home courts next week and continuing the momentum across all teams.

Award winners this week were:

Eleven and Under: Just Great Coffee Player of the Day, Esme Fisher; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Olympia Manning.

Thirteen and Under Yellow: Sprout Wellness Player of the Day, Charlotte Grant; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Stella Jolly.

Thirteen and Under Black: Deluxe Rod Shop Player of the Day, Eva McIntyre; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Belle Parnis.

Fifteen and Under: Harris Gardenscapes Player of the Day, Olivia Cleave; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Kensi Cronk.



Thirteen and Under Black award winners Eva and Belle. -S

Yea junior footballers take on St Mary's

Under Nines
Yea versus St Mary's

GREAT effort from the Yea Football Netball Club's Under Nines, with the team displaying fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship in a high-energy match. Highlights include fierce tackling (within the rules), great goals, fantastic kicks and unselfish plays.

A huge shoutout to this week's award winners: Ryder, Just Great Coffee Encouragement Award; Chet, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award; Russell, Progression Physiotherapy and Performance Best Player Award.

Everyone contributed to a terrific team performance. The club says thank you to St Mary's for a great game and to their wonderful families for cheering them on. Well done, Tigers.

The Under 10s team had a bye.

Under 12s
Yea versus St Mary's

Winners are grinners, and the Tigers are grinning. An amazing game was played over the weekend with a win against St Marys in Seymour.

Team spirit was high among the team as they led St Mary's to the final siren. Goal kicker's Harrison, Ashley, Darby, Archie and Sienna.

Awards: Provendor Bakery, Toby Geeson; Yarra Valley Gas, Ashley Sawyer; PJT, Harrison Muir. The club says congratulations to everyone, well deserved.



Fifteen and Under award winners Kensi and Olivia. -S



Thirteen and Under Yellow award winners Charlotte and Stella. -S